

Serial No.: 09/701,430

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A canning structure consisting of:
  - a ceramic honeycomb structure not loaded with a catalyst;
  - a metal case having two opposing fully open ends; and
  - a non-intumescent ceramic fiber mat holding member;

the holding member being located between the case and the ceramic honeycomb structure being held, fixedly holding the ceramic honeycomb structure in the metal case;

~~wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure is fixed beforehand within the metal case by the holding member.~~
2. (Original) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure has cell walls thinner than 0.10 mm.
3. (Original) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure has cell walls thinner than 0.08 mm.
4. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the metal case has a stuffing structure.

Serial No.: 09/701,430

5. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the metal case has a tourniquet structure.

6. and 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the holding member contains ceramic fibers having a diameter of 2 to 6  $\mu\text{m}$ .